

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: PINS PINT IS
SUBJ: THE 18TH RAKAH COMMUNIST CONGRESS

REF: TEL AVIV 8446

1. THE EIGHTEENTH RAKAH (NEW COMMUNIST LIST) CONGRESS IN HAIFA OFFICIALLY ENDED DEC 17 (REFTEL) BUT WAS FOLLOWED BY A CLOSED SESSION AT WHICH THE NEW POLITBUREAU WAS ELECTED. THERE WERE NO SURPRISES. AMONG THOSE REELECTED WERE MEIR WILNER AS SECRETARY GENERAL; TAWFIK TOUBI AS ORGANIZING SECRETARY; TAWFIK ZIYAD, MAYOR OF NAZARETH; AVRAHAM LEVENBRAUN; EMIL TOMA AS PARTY THEORETICIAN; DR WOLF ERLICH; AND MUNEM JARJOURA, DEPUTY MAYOR OF NAZARETH. (WILNER, TOUBI, ZIYAD AND LEVENBRAUN ARE MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI KNESSET.)

2. THROUGHOUT THE SESSIONS RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT GROUPS STAGED DEMONSTRATIONS DURING WHICH SEVERAL PROTESTERS AND RAKAH
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SECURITY GUARDS WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED. A MASSIVE CONTINGENT OF RIOT POLICE KEPT ORDER, BUT REPORTEDLY MADE NO ARRESTS.

3. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, CONGRESS SPEECHES AND DECLARATIONS ECHOED THE SOVIET POSITION ON A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. RAKAH DEMANDED FULL CIVIL RIGHTS FOR AND THE END OF DISCRIMINATION

AGAINST THE ARAB MINORITY IN ISRAEL; CALLED FOR THE FORMATION OF AN ARAB-JEWISH UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES COMMITTED TO THE PEACE STRUGGLE AS THE BASIS FOR THE 1977 KNESSET ELECTION CAMPAIGN; APPEALED TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM TO ARRANGE THE SPEEDY CONVENING OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 WITH PARTICIPATION OF "ALL SIDES TO THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING THE PLO;" AND RESTATED ITS COMMITMENT THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RETURN TO THE PRE-1967 FRONTIERS.

4. THE CONGRESS DEALT NOT ONLY WITH QUESTION OF KNESSET ELECTIONS BUT ALSO WITH THE HISTADRUT ELECTIONS WHICH ARE NOW SET FOR JUNE 1977. THROUGH STRONG APPEAL TO THE ARAB ELECTORATE AND WORKERS RAKAH HOPES TO ENHANCE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS REPRESENTATION IN BOTH BODIES. IT WILL ALSO SEEK TO WORK CLOSELY WITH SUCH GROUPS AS THE BLACK PANTHERS; MOKED (ISRAELI COMMUNIST PARTY); THE COMMITTEE FOR A JUST ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE; AND LEFT-WING MEMBERS OF MAPAM AND OTHER DOVES IN THE HOPE OF ESTABLISHING A "PEACE FRONT" ELECTORAL ALLIANCE. WITH AN EYE PARTICULARLY DIRECTED TOWARD THE ARAB ELECTORATE IN ISRAEL THE CONGRESS TRIED TO STRESS THAT THE VIEWS OF RAKAH AND THE PLO WERE INCREASINGLY CONVERGING, THEREBY HOPING TO ATTRACT THE PRO-PLO ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE INDIFFERENT TO THE KNESSET AND HISTADRUT ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

5. EMIL TOMA DISCUSSED THE CHANGING ORIENTATION OF THE PLO LEADERSHIP "BOTH IN PRINCIPLE AND REALITY". IT WAS, HE SAID, MOVING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BY FORMULATING ITS DEMANDS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION OF THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN ARABS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE JEWISH NATION OF ISRAEL. HE SAW THE PLO AS INCLINING TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA FOLLOWING "LIBERATION" OF THESE TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THAT THE PLO HAD NOT YET FORMALLY AMENDED ITS CHARTER TO THIS EFFECT, HE MAINTAINED THAT THIS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THE PLO HAD NOT DEMANDED THE REPEAL OF A MARCH 1973 KNESSET RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE HISTORIC AND IRREVOCABLE RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO "ERETZ ISRAEL".

6. THE MOST AGGRESSIVE STATEMENT AT THE CONGRESS CAME FROM MUNEM JARJOURA, THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF NAZARETH, WHO IN A LONG, IMPASSIONED SPEECH ENUMERATED JEWISH INJUSTICES TO THE ARABS OF THE GALILEE AND CHARGED THAT "THE BUSHES OF GALILEE ARE DRIPPING WITH ARAB BLOOD, SPILLED BY THE ISRAELI OPPRESSORS".

7. THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION, ALEKSANDR AKSENOV, CONDEMNED THE SYMPOSIUM ON JEWISH CULTURE IN MOSCOW AS AN

ANTI-SOVIET POLITICAL PROPAGANDA SHOW. HE ALSO REITERATED THE SOVIET POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS CALLING FOR ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ITS ARMY FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TO HONOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. HE DECLARED THAT THE USSR WAS NOT PREJUDICED AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND WOULD BE READY TO RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

8. MAPAM LEADERS TOLD EMBASSY THAT SEVERAL COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS HAD REQUESTED MEETINGS WITH THEM BUT THAT THEIR PARTY HAD DECIDED TO REFUSE ALL SUCH OVERTURES AND NO SUCH MEETINGS HAD TAKEN PLACE.
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